



Leviticus 17-20

1. Leviticus is divided according to the two types of Laws to be taught by the Levites (or priests) (Lev 10:10-11): 1) (chs 1-16) clean laws/{covenant signs} {sacrifices {Adamic/Noahic}, circumcision {Abrahamic}, sabbaths {Old} and separation {Old: diet, diseases, death, decay and discharges: birth, bodily, blood}}, 2) (chs 17-27) moral commands.
2. Seeking God outside of His prescribed protocol and/or place is playing w/demons and idolatry (17:1-9; 2Ch 11:14-15).
3. Demons are real (17:7; Isa 34:14 – “Lillith” = night demon w/Pro 2:13-14; Joh 3:19; Col 1:13; 1Th 5:7; 1Pe 2:9; Jud 1:6).
4. Blood is: 1) not to be consumed in any form (17:10, 12-14) 2) sacred since it is used to make atonement (17:11), 3) representative of our life (17:11a, 14).
5. Vampires and gypsies/fortune-tellers are considered sinful by God and need to repent (17:10b, 14b, 20:6).
6. The phrase “cut off” refers to being unclean and unable to receive God’s covenant blessings (e.g. 18:29-30 w/Num 19:13, 16-20). Since it is God doing the cutting off, it also does not (by itself) indicate the committing of a capital crime which requires the act of man (not God) (e.g. 20:1-5 = Our neglect to carry out death against those committing cap crimes does not stop God from still cutting them off demonstrating the two acts to not be synonymous).
7. We are to listen/look to God and not (listen/look to) the unbelieving (pagan) culture around us to determine what is right and wrong, acceptable and unacceptable (18:1-5), since: 1) God views their form of morality as “abominations” (18:26-27, 29-30), 2) they represent those “detested” by God (20:23), 3) they are the reason our planet suffers (ecologically and economically) (18:24-25, 28, 20:22).
8. Sexual acts/looking at someone’s nude parts for sexual arousal (i.e. uncovering their nakedness) is “depravity” (18:17, 20:14) and “perversion” (20:12) and therefore prohibited/sinful in relation to: 1) blood/step relatives (18:6 – “close relative” = your flesh and blood – which would include sons and daughters, 7-8 = mother and step-mother, 9-18, 20:11-12, 14, 17, 19-21), 2) another person’s spouse (18:20, 20:10), 3) someone of the same sex (20:13), 4) a woman during her menstrual flow (sexual acts involving her “fountain” - 18:19, 20:18), 4) animals (18:23, 20:15-16). In some cases, such actions are also capital crimes (adultery-20:10, homosexuality – 18:22, 20:13, bestiality – 18:23, 20:15-16; Exo 22:19, certain forms of incest- 20:11-12, 14, 20-21 – “die childless” = put to death since it is not speaking to adultery or levirate obligations – Deu 25:5-10).
9. Leviticus demonstrates both the evolution of the human race and maturity in the relationship between God and humanity since what was once prescribed/tolerated by God is now strictly prohibited (e.g. Cain and Abel = their wives were their sisters, Abraham = married his half-sister, Sarah, Lot = sex w/his daughters, Jacob = married to sisters, Leah and Rachel, Judah = sex w/his daughter-in-law, Tamar).
10. Child abuse (i.e. actions that dedicate or commit your children to physical harm, the violation of their sexuality/sexual purity or the worship of false gods/religion)(18:21, 20:1-5), parent abuse (cursing/striking your father or mother) (20:9; Exo 21:15, 17; Deu 21:18-21) and involvement w/sorcery (19:31, 20:6 w/27) are also capital crimes.
11. Loving our neighbor (i.e. covenant brothers/sisters) as ourselves (19:18) requires: 1) keeping the ten commandments (18:1-20, 18:22-23 [coveting and adultery], 18:21, 19:1-8 [parents, Sabbaths, idolatry, proper worship], 19:11-13 [stealing, lying, broken sacred oaths], 19:16-17 [murder]), 2) caring for the needs of the poor (19:9-10), 3) not oppressing or taking advantage of others (19:13, 33-34), 4) accommodating the handicapped (19:14), 5) never showing partiality or practicing slander, unforgiveness or revenge (unprescribed vengeance) but instead always seeking truth and justice (prescribed vengeance) through the covenant courts (19:15-18), 6) never allowing expediency or our personal benefit in the present to forfeit the benefits/honor due or promised to others in the future (19:19 [cross-breeding, cross-dressing-like the priests, see also Exo 28:5-40, Deu 22:11], 19:20-22 [taking back your promises], 19:23-25 [stressing the land]), 7) adorning ourselves to please God (19:27-28), 8) not allowing our daughters to become promiscuous women (19:29), 9) honoring the elderly (32), 10) not cheating (36), 11) being faithful in our observance of God’s holy days and respectful while in His house (19:30), 12) not seeking supernatural knowledge through anyone/anything other than God (19:26, 31).
12. Damaging personal property promised to another requires some form of restitution be paid to the other party (19:20-22).
13. To Christ, being under His Lordship (“I am the Lord” -18:4-5, 30, 19:1, 3, 12, 14, 16, 18, 30, 37, 20:7-8, 24) means: 1) listening to/walking faithfully according to all His rules (18:18:4-5, 19:37, 20:8, 22), 2) steering clear of those things identified as abominations and unclean (18:29-30, 20:25), 3) perfecting holiness in all things (19:1-2, 20:7, 26; 2Co 7:1).